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INFORMATION RELEASE

TROPICAL STORMS BONNIE & CHARLEY

August 11, 2004 1130 am

Tropical Storm Bonnie:

Windy and rainy conditions possible late Thursday and Thursday night as the remnants of Tropical Storm Bonnie move rapidly across the region. Tropical storm Bonnie is located over the central Gulf of Mexico. The latest forecast from the National Hurricane Center indicates Bonnie could make landfall along the Florida panhandle late Thursday morning as a strong Tropical Storm.

Although Bonnie will weaken after landfall, breezy and perhaps even windy conditions may affect southeast Georgia late Thursday afternoon and Thursday night. Tropical storm force wind gusts of 35 to 40 mph may occur over interior southeast Georgia. Sustained tropical storm force winds are not expected at this time.

Due to the rapid movement of the storm, widespread flooding is not expected, however heavy rain and localized flooding is a possibility. Isolated tornadoes are also possible.

There is still some uncertainty regarding the strength and movement of Bonnie as well as its possible impacts on the region. Residents across southern South Carolina and southeast Georgia are encouraged to remain alert to the latest forecasts and statements on Bonnie. This can be done through NOAA weather radio, TV or your local new source. Information can also be obtained on the internet at wchs.csc.noaa.gov.



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Tropical Storm Charley:

At 11 am, the center of Tropical Storm Charley was located near Latitude 16.5 North, Longitude 76.1 West or about 110 miles south-southeast of Kingston Jamaica.

Charley is moving west-northwest near 18 mph, and a gradual turn to the northeast is expected during the next day or so. On this track the center will be moving near the south coast of Jamaica later today.

Maximum sustained winds are near 70 mph, with higher gusts. Charley is expected to become a hurricane later today. Under the current forecast, Tropical Storm Charley will make landfall in the Florida Keys late Thursday evening as a Category 1 Hurricane. Afterwards, Charley is forecast to continue on a north northeast track across Florida. The earliest impact to coastal Georgia would be Friday evening, passing just east of coastal Georgia.

Operating Condition 4 is now in effect. OPCON 4 is the first stage of advanced alert readiness. This notification is being given as a precautionary measure. All interested parties should maintain vigilance in monitoring these storms. A thorough check of emergency supplies for in-place sheltering should commence. Emergency response agencies should review their hurricane plans and determine the availability of their assets, resources and personnel. Those agencies that have responsibility to share this release should begin doing so at this time.

No further action is required at this time. The next information release will be issued at 5:30 pm today.